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Message Text

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63
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-15 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 IGA-02 DRC-01 /103 W
---------- 002614
R 041717Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2928
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN, EAID
SUBJECT: U.S. INITIATIVE RE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 173754

1. WE DISCUSSED U.S. PROPOSAL FOR MERGER OF ISVS AND UNV WITH LE BRETON SEPTEMBER 4, POINTING OUT THAT USG ANXIOUS TO AVOID CONFLICT AND OVERLAPPING OF VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS, BUT THAT WE HAD NO SPECIFIC PLAN FOR MERGER (THOUGH WE PREFERRED MERGER UNDER UNV FOR REASONS SET OUT IN PARA 4 REFTEL). OFFERED TO MEET FURTHER WITH GOF OFFICIALS (PARA 8 REFTEL) IF THEY FOUND US PROPOSAL INTERESTING.

2. LE BRETON SAID GOF COULD NOT NOW LEND SUPPORT TO PROPOSED ISVS-UNV MERGER, WHICH HE CALLED "PREMATURE". HE NOTED THAT GOF RECOGNIZED PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE SHORTCOMINGS OF ISVS, AND DIFFICULTIES OF ISVS-UNV COOPERATION (WHICH HE IMPLIED MIGHT DECREASE FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF UNV SECRETARY GENERAL). ACCORDING LE BRETON, GOF IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS METHODS FOR CLOSER AND MORE EFFECTIVE COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES, BUT COULD NOT SUPPORT FUSION OF ISVS INTO UNV. STRENGTH OF ISVS, WHICH COMES FROM ITS CHARACTER AS FEDERATION OF NATIONAL, GRASSROOTS VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS, WOULD, IN GOF VIEW, BE LOST IN MERGER WITH EXCESSIVELY BUREAUCRATIC AND UNINSPIRED UNV OPERATION. MOREOVER, GOF (THIS PROBABLY IS MAIN OBJECTION TO PROPOSED MERGER) WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE BILATERAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS WHICH
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IT SUPPORTS FOR NATIONAL PURPOSES BE SUBUMED IN TOTALLY UN PROGRAM.

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3. WE INFORMED LE BRETON THAT USG USG WAS ALSO DISCUSSING THIS PROPOSAL WITH OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS AND WOULD, IF RESPONSE MERITED, BE PURSUING IT FURTHER EITHER PRIOR TO OR AT OCTOBER ISVS MEETING.

DECON JUNE 1974
IRWIN

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